

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARLNEWS SUNDAY JUNE 1 2003

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

In the news today:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION TO TAKE AMATEUR RADIO FORWARD

NOTICE OF SARL SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

NOMINATIONS TO COUNCIL

SA AMSAT TO SURGE AHEAD

SATELLITES TO BE THE SUBJECT OF THE NEXT INTECNET

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The news follows in detail:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION TO TAKE AMATEUR RADIO FORWARD

The Deputy Director General of the Department of Communication, Pakamile Pongwana, says the Department will take Amateur Radio forward by supporting the development of at least one radio club in every province to promote amateur radio amongst the historically disadvantaged community. In his keynote address at the WorldSpace AMSATCON 2003 held at the SARL National Amateur Radio Centre last Saturday he said: "We are prepared in the department to take state money through the Department of the Arts, Culture, Science and Technology in promoting the activity. During the World Telecommunications day celebrations at Sun City on Sunday (today 1 June) we intend to launch an amateur radio club in Pokeng. It will be with your support that we will make sure that what ever we do, we will not do it in the wrong manner."

He said that activity, skills and the experience that Radio Amateurs have, can help to promote involvement in Science and Technology particularly amongst the youth. It is the South African Radio League that needs to make sure that we move in the right direction. As far the new regulations are concerned he said that some of processes were not handled correctly but that he is personally dealing with the issues and will work with the SARL to reach a speedy conclusion.

Talking about on the air activity he said that there is some concern around discipline in terms of the activities of radio amateurs and that radio amateurs must deal with this and help the SARL to ensure that what ever is done promotes amateur radio as one of the most disciplined activities.

He also called on radio amateurs to embrace the concept of transformation to include all sectors of the community. He said this cannot be designed or dictated by government but must be a result of consultation. He asked Radio Amateurs to be there, to work together. "Let us make sure we promote the activities that you are engaged in. It is for the good of the organisation you represent, it is good for the country and it is good for the South African Society as a whole."

"That sort of cooperation will make you the champions in the context of NEPAD. Everybody in the world tends to look at South Africa to spearhead or lead in activities of such nature in Africa. The President has given us all a task to make sure that the experience, skills and resources are used to the benefit of South African Citizens and Citizens of Africa. It is through cooperation that we can achieve this. I am calling on you to rise to the occasion to be there when Africa needs you."

NOTICE OF SARL SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that in terms of Rule 12.3 of the Constitution and Rules of the SARL, that a Special General Meeting of the SARL will be convened at the National Amateur Radio Centre, SENTECH Grounds, Johannesburg, on Saturday 21 June 2003 commencing at 09:00. Registration and submission of proxies will commence at 08:00.

The meeting is convened as a directive from the members present at the Annual General Meeting held in Bloemfontein on 29 March 2003, where the Council Budget Proposals were rejected by the majority of those members and proxies.

The purpose of the meeting is for the continuation of AGM Business to consider the Budget Proposal for 2004 and the Subscription Proposal for 2004. (Items 8.5, 8.6, and 8.7 under the said AGM Agenda).

NOMINATIONS TO COUNCIL

There are currently three vacancies on Council due to the resignation of the President and two other vacant seats. In terms of Rule 16.2 nominations for candidates are invited from members of the SARL to fill these vacancies. Should more than 3 nominations be received a ballot will be held.

Each nomination must contain the following:

1. Full names, callsign and address of nominee;
2. An amateur radio related CV of not more than 200 words;
3. A signed declaration by the nominee that s/he will accept nomination and serve on the Council of the SARL if elected;
4. A proposer and seconder must sign each nomination;
5. Only fully paid-up members (Rule 16.3 as amended at the AGM on 29 March 2003) of the SARL may be nominated, propose and second a nomination.

The nominations must reach the Secretary by no later than close of business at 13:00 on 18 June 2003. The nominations must be addressed to The Secretary, SARL and mailed to P O Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735 and faxed to 011 675 2793.

SA AMSAT TO SURGE AHEAD

SA AMSAT has been reactivated and will surge ahead to promote amateur satellite activity. Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, was tasked to lead SA AMSAT as the interim President. He will be assisted by a steering committee. The following amateurs were elected: Gerald Klatzko, ZS6BTD, Craig Gibson, ZR6CG, and Phillip van Tonder, ZS6PVT. The steering committee has the power of co-option.

Dave Long, ZS5FR, was elected to the steering committee to start a SA AMSAT group in KZN. Radio Amateurs in other centres of South Africa are invited to volunteer to start activity groups in their area. Please send your details to SAAMSAT@intekom.co.za.

The membership fee of SA AMSAT was set as R50. After the first meeting of the committee more details will be announced.

NARC OPEN DAYS

In order to make more use of the National Amateur Radio Centre at Radiokop, a decision has been taken to have an open day on the first Saturday of every month.

The first open morning will be this coming Saturday, the 7th of June. Most of the first open morning will be spent on a meeting where interested parties can share ideas with us as to what we can do between July and the 6th of December. We are also contemplating at least one boot sale during the latter half of the year.

The meeting will start at 10:30.

Should you not be able to attend, and have some ideas you wish to share with us, please e-mail it to Francois whose email address is francois@overflow.co.za or fax it to 011 475-5946, so we can add your ideas to our list.

SATELLITES TO BE THE SUBJECT OF THE NEXT INTECNET

The next SARL Intecnet will take place on Sunday 22 June. The subject for discussion will be amateur satellites with the focus on information for new comers to this facet of Amateur Radio. The talk show will include a detailed discussion on how to operate the so-called easy sats which do not require major new investment in equipment.

SARL KIDS DAY

The next SARL Kid's Day will be on the air on Youth Day, Monday 16 June. The activity will run from 09:00 to 11:00 CAT on the 20, 40 and 2 metre bands. The aim of the Kid's Day is to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people hands-on on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their stations with children.

Because the Comrades Marathon is being run the same day, the exchange will be name, age, location and favourite sportsman or sportswomen. Operators are encouraged to allow the young people to talk to other young people around the country, do not limit it just to the exchange. Show the young people some of the other modes of operating such as CW, SSTV, packet, PSK31, etc.

Please remember to register your call sign as an educational station if you have not done so yet.

Remember Monday 16 June 2003 is SARL Kid's Day; my kids hope to chat to your kids.

REQUEST FOR SGM

A request for a Special General Meeting of the SARL has been received from ZS1SM and thirty other members in Division 1 calling on the President, Treasurer and Finance Committee to resign.

The request was sent to the President of the SARL who has since resigned and the Acting President has now referred the matter to the Secretary to action.

In order to allow members the mandatory six weeks notice a date in August 2003 is required.

As there are presently no funds available to print and post the Notices to some 1 324 members and to provide for travel costs, this SGM will only take place once funds become available when Subscription income becomes available. This should allow for the meeting to take place in August 2003.

signed: Laurie Devereux, ZS5DL. Secretary

CW LESSONS ON THE 80 METRE BAND.

Isack Greeff, ZS2ZG, from Port Elizabeth, is sending morse code lessons on the 80 metre band Mondays through to Thursdays on a frequency of 3 636 kHz. His operating schedule is as follows :

18:45 to 19:00 - The alphabet, numerals and some other characters such as the comma and the fullstop at six words per minute.

19:00 to 19:45 - Groups of five letters and numerals sent at twelve words per minute, with voice repeats in between; 19:45 to 20:00 - Plain text at speeds from twelve to thirty words per minute.

Isack will be conducting these lessons until the 28th August.

2 METER SIMPLEX REPEATER ON AIR IN THE SOUTHERN CAPE

The Gizmo Amateur Radio Forum installed the first ever experimental simplex repeater on Saturday 24 May. This simplex repeater gives coverage in the Mossel Bay/George/Wilderness area on a frequency of 145,525 MHz.

The simplex repeater will be mainly used for experimental and study purposes which will entail:

1. The monitoring of 2 meter propagation conditions.
2. 2 Meter radio- and audio checks.
3. The effectiveness of a simplex repeater as an emergency communications tool for mobile- and fixed station purposes.
4. The simplex repeater as a healthy means to improve one's ability to follow the communications dictum of "brevity consistent with clarity and conciseness".
5. Experimenting with CTCSS and DTMF coupled systems to the simplex repeater.

Reports regarding the working of the simplex repeater can be forwarded via email to zs1i@mweb.co.za.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Open day at the NARC on the 7th June starting 10:30; PEARS Microwave and Digital contest on 13 - 15 June; SARL Kid's Day 16th June 09:00 - 11:00; Nominations for Councillors 18th June 13:00; SARL SPECIAL GENERAL BUDGET MEETING at the NARC on 21 June.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin which was compiled by George, ZS6NE and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21 560, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone. /EX